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INFO	OCT-00	COPY-01	ADS-00	INR-10	NEA-07	HA-08	PM-09
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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0366

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 06168

USINFO FOR P/RC, VOA NEWS/CA, SECSTATE FOR EUR

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - AFGHANISTAN ANNIVERSARY

1. MOST SWEDISH NEWSPAPERS HAVE INCLUDED COVERAGE IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOVIET INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN.

2. ON DECEMBER 27, SWEDEN'S LARGEST MORNING DAILY "DAGENS NYHETER" (INDEPENDENT) DEVOTED FRONT PAGE ITEM AND FOUR COLUMN PICTURE OF AN ELDERLY REFUGEE. CULTURAL PAGE ARTICLE BY THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE SWEDISH AFGHANISTAN COMMITTEE, JAN STOLPE, AND ONE ENTIRE FOREIGN NEWS PAGE TO AFGHANISTAN. MOST OF THE COVERAGE CONCENTRATED ON THE REFUGEE ISSUE. FRONT PAGE ITEM WAS HEADED "NO WAY BACK", AND MR. STOLPE'S ARTICLE CLAIMED THAT THERE ARE AT LEAST SIX MILLION AFGHANS LIVING OUTSIDE THEIR COUNTRY, AS WELL AS TWO MILLION REFUGEES IN AFGHANISTAN, AS A RESULT OF SOVIET TERROR WARFARE. STOLPE'S ARTICLE DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF A "POLISH" SOLUTION, I.E., EXPANSION OF SOVIET TERRITORY TO INCLUDE PARTS OF AFGHANISTAN AND INCORPORATION INTO AFGHANISTAN OF PASHTU PORTIONS OF PAKISTAN, THUS CREATING A SEPARATE UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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STATE OF PASHTUNISTAN. STOLPE ALSO NOTES THAT NORWAY AND SWEDEN ARE THE ONLY NATIONS IN THE WORLD WHICH HAVE PROVIDED FINANCIAL AID FOR FOR HUMANITARIAN AID INSIDE AFGHANISTAN, DESPITE THE OBVIOUS, ENORMOUS NEEDS AMONG THE POPULATION

3. DECEMBER 27 EDITION OF SECOND LARGEST STOCKHOLM MORNING DAILY "SVENSKA DAGBLADET" (CONSERVATIVE) RAN SIX COLUMN ARTICLE BY FREELANCER STEFAN LINDGREN, WHO

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RECENTLY MADE A ONE-MONTH TRIP INSIDE AFGHANISTAN. ITEM IS THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF SIX ARTICLES AND IS HEADLINED "THE GUERRILLAS REIGN OUTSIDE THE CITIES". ARTICLE SAID THAT REPORTS THAT APPROXIMATELY 90 PERCENT OF THE COUNTRY IS IN THE HANDS OF THE MUJAHADDIN SEEM CORRECT.

4. ON DECEMBER 23, MALMO PROVINCIAL DAILY "SYOSVENSKA DAGBLADET" (LIBERAL), CARRIED EDITORIAL, SAYING:

"...THE POPULAR RESISTANCE AGAINST THE FOREIGN INVADERS HAS INCREASED OVER THE LAST SIX MONTHS. THE WAR CONTINUES WITH UNDIMINISHED INTENSITY AND IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT THE LEADERS IN MOSCOW INTEND TO WITHDRAW ANY TROOPS. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE AFGHAN CAMPAIGN IS A SEVERE SET-BACK TO SOVIET PRESTIGE. THIS DOES NOT SEEM TO BE OF ANY PARTICULAR CONCERN TO MOSCOW. NEITHER DO THE RUSSIANS SEEM TO CARE ABOUT U.N. RESOLUTIONS DEMANDING SOVIET RETREAT FROM THE OCCUPIED COUNTRY. CONDEMNATIONS BY WORLD PUBLIC OPINION HAVE BEEN IGNORED BY THE GENTLEMEN IN THE KREMLIN FROM THE START. IT IS INDEED A GLOOMY AND TRAGIC ANNIVERSARY WE'RE FACING..." PANACCIONE

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